

IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method, comprising:
providing a usage monitoring heating ventilation and air conditioning control system, the usage monitoring heating ventilation and air conditioning control system including a programmable digital thermostat with an on board memory;
issuing personal identification numbers to each of a plurality of system users;
associating each of the plurality of system users with at least one of a plurality of user types;
storing the personal identification numbers in a first data structure in the on board memory; and
linking each one of a plurality of entries in the first data structure by reference to at least one of a plurality of entries in a second data structure in the on board memory, the second data structure including a list of user types.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of user types is associated with at least one of a plurality of function sets.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the on board memory can include a member selected from the group consisting of electrically erasable programmable read only memory, flash memory, random access memory, and network storage devices.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
dynamically updating the first data structure; and
dynamically updating the second data structure.

5-27. Canceled

28. (Original) A method, comprising regulating user access to an interactive user interface of a programmable thermostat, each user identified by a personal identification number associated with a user type selected from the group consisting of building owners, maintenance personnel, building tenants, and manufacturers.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein each user's personal identification number belongs to exactly one user type.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein access to the interactive user interface is regulated using at least one of a plurality of software filters.